



USAID | MACEDONIA
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PRESS RELEASE

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USAID helps to improve schools through strengthening local governance and empowering communities

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through its Secondary Education Activity, and with support from the Ministry of Education and Science, completed the training of approximately 1,300 school board members to strengthen school governance and improve education through building school-community relationships. The completion of this training was marked with a closing ceremony on August 22 in Ohrid.

"Education is about partnerships that include students, teachers, school directors, local and central government, as well as parents and communities. The strength of this partnership is the driving force determining the success or failure of a school. School boards bring to this partnership the voice of the community. A voice that brings local concerns and issues to school management --- raising the relevance of education and strengthening the schools ability to address local needs," said acting USAID Mission Director, Timothy Donnay, at the Closing Ceremony.

School boards provide a vital forum for parents and other members of the school community to contribute to school improvement, school management and student achievement. Through the school board trainings, school board members gained new awareness, knowledge, and skills about their new roles and responsibilities which will empower them to make positive contributions in support of students throughout Macedonia.

USAID Secondary Education Activity (SEA) is a five-year, \$10 million project started in 2003 to better prepare Macedonian Youth for employment through education programs. The project worked in over 50 vocational schools providing training and support to teachers, school directors, school board members, and students. For more information please visit following web site www.sea.org.mk

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that create jobs, reduce corruption, and prepare Macedonian students for the workforce. These initiatives improve the quality of life and support Macedonia's transition to a stable and prosperous democracy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.